

People's forum

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1989

Bolduc responds to Latin Mass story

Editor, The Post-Crescent:

An article entitled "Latin Mass: It's alive at 2 area churches" which appeared on Page 1 of the *Sunday Post-Crescent* on Oct. 22, was so full of errors, fabrications and distortions of the truth that one cannot allow such flagrant misrepresentation of facts to go unanswered. The article was authored by one Peter A. Geniesse, who obviously is new at the reporting business and reflects serious unprofessionalism and carelessness in reporting news.

Firstly, I take offense at the author's subtle attacks on Father Bujarski. Although I do not know Father Bujarski personally, I take exception to the reporter's attempt to ridicule this elderly priest, especially when he claims that Father Bujarski "mumbled" prayers at the foot of the altar.

I do not know where Mr. Geniesse obtained his information, however I do know that it was not from me. Although he had the opportunity of asking me whatever questions he wished when he spoke to me on the phone, the article contains little of what we discussed and is filled with material that was never mentioned.

The Latin Mass is not "banned" as Geniesse claims; the Latin Mass has never been forbidden by the church. In fact, the holy father has several times instructed the bishops of the world to make it available to all the faithful who wish to attend it and to all the clergy who wish to celebrate it. In refusing to adhere to the demands of the holy

father, the majority of American bishops are not only in open conflict against the visible head of the Roman Catholic Church on earth, but they are also in opposition to the decrees of the Second Vatican Council which state emphatically that the Latin liturgy must be preserved. Faced with such circumstances, the faithful, including their priests, have no alternative but to obey God and the holy father over and above the objections of the dissident local ordinaries.

The charge by Mr. Geniesse that I celebrate Mass at "the shrine" in Necedah is an absolute lie. I have never celebrated Mass there, nor have I ever administered sacraments at the shrine in Necedah. Mass in Necedah is, and always has been, celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Chapel, a separate entity unrelated to the "shrine."

As the reporter makes a point of bringing in the name of the La Crosse bishop, I would like to state that it is my observation that those who attend Mass at Our Lady of Victory Chapel, be they believers in the shrine or not, have a far deeper faith and a better understanding of their Catholic heritage than does the bishop of La Crosse.

While the bishop of La Crosse preaches obedience to others, he is flagrantly disobedient to the bishop of Rome. While he preaches love, he practices hate and intolerance. While he preaches charity, he practices discrimination. I think that the bishop of La Crosse would have a great deal to learn from the humble example given by the faithful in the Necedah area who recite the rosary daily, attend Mass regularly, love their faith, and openly practice love of neighbor and Christian charity among themselves.

It is quite unfortunate that although the bishop of La Crosse has had made available to him all the facts, he continues to disseminate false information. He caused to be circulated a document purporting to be a copy of a *celebret* I obtained from Rome with a statement he claims forbids me to celebrate Mass in public and restricted me to celebrate Mass in private. I do not know how he obtained this faked document but he has been given a copy of the original and still persists in perpetrating his false accusations.

While discussing these matters with Rome, a well-known Vatican official referred to the American hierarchy as "the ecclesiastical Mafia," in reference to the illegal and unauthorized use of force, coercion and threats on the part of American bishops in obtaining concessions from Rome. It is public record that the bishop of Milwaukee and a number of other bishops have publicly threatened to withhold financial assistance to Rome unless the holy father accedes to their demands.

Traditional Catholics need apologize to no one for their defense of their faith. The history of the church is replete with examples in which those in authority have attempted to silence those who were right. Among their victims have been St. Athanasius, St. Thomas Moore, St. Joan of Arc, Galileo and Copernicus, to name a few. I for one do not fear the judgment of the Pilates and the Judases of this age. I consider the judgment of Christ of far more importance and having remained faithful to him and to his Church, I do not fear his judgment, I eagerly look forward to it.

I suggest to the bishop of La Crosse that he could learn a great deal from the example of the bishop of Green Bay, who is obviously concerned with the souls of the flock that have been entrusted to him. I also suggest to him that he follow the advice of Christ when he gave this very sound advice: "First, remove the beam from your eye so that you will more clearly see to remove the splinter from the eye of your neighbor."

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